Drive-in for
DOSA
8 AM - 11 AM & 5 PM - 10 PM
HOTEL
SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2622999

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 295 Pages: 12 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
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MYSURU Monday 21st December 2020
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Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
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City properties to get QR codes from tomorrow

- MCC to rope in volunteers for property survey
- To distribute PVC material QR boards to building owners

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (RK&SSV)- From tomorrow, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) will begin its ambitious project of computing details of each and every property in city and providing Quick Response (QR) code to citizens so that they can pay tax online without coming to Corporation Offices.

The project was scheduled to begin today itself but it is delayed by a day due to the shortage of QR code stickers. "We are kick-starting this novel initiative from tomorrow (Dec. 22). Our Corporation will be the first Urban Local Body (ULB) to launch this programme in the country. The official launch of this programme will take place on Jan. 1, 2021," MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde told *Star of Mysore*.

The first phase of the project will cover commercial properties and in the second phase, residential properties will be covered. "From tomorrow, our officers will visit commercial outlets and complexes and list out the properties if they are in order after clicking photos. Then the next process will start," MCC Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Kumar Naik said.

MCC Zone-4 Assistant Commissioner Priyadarshani, Revenue Officer Satish, Asst. Revenue Officer Prasad and Revenue Inspectors seen preparing for tomorrow's property survey.

Before giving QR code, the MCC has asked all its Revenue Inspectors to personally visit 20 to 25 percent of those Mysureans who have promptly paid taxes online for the year 2020-21 to collect details of their properties and upload the collected data in specially created mobile application.

The Survey Officer would collect details about property as total area, number of floors and usage. Pictures of properties from four different angles would be taken on the mobile phone and uploaded to the newly-created application. The purpose of selecting this group of citizens is to enable them to pay tax without any hassles for the year 2021-22. "We will try to complete this section of citizens before Dec. 31, 2020," the Commissioner said.

Volunteers' help

He said that the MCC intends to take the assistance of volunteers in the door-to-door survey. As per the Corporation records, there are 1.70 lakh properties and the number may go up once the actual survey was done. It would be not possible for 60 Revenue Inspectors to survey the whole city.

(See QR CODE on page 6)

Hi-tech Bus Stand to come up at Kumbarakoppal

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (RK&KS)- Chamaraja MLA L. Nagendra performed *guddali puja* for the construction of the Hi-Tech Bus Stand at Kumbarakoppal's first bus stand (MCC Ward No. 5) in city this morning.

The hi-tech bus stand is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 35 lakh from the Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) SFC Fund.

MCC Development Officer Manu Gowda, speaking to *Star of Mysore*, said that the new bus stand will come up on a 40 ft. x 60 ft. plot and the works have been allotted to the Public Works Department (PWD) which in turn has tendered the works to Contractor Bhyrappa. This is the first ever hi-tech bus stand for city buses, he added.

An architect's impression of the new Hi-Tech Bus Stand.

Pointing out that the new bus stand will have two floors (ground and first floor), Manu Gowda said that the ground floor will have two commercial shops, KSRTC Office, bus bays and hi-tech toilets for men and women. The first floor will not be utilised at the moment and it will be decided later whether to give it on rent, he added. The construction is expected to be completed in 3-4 months.

MCC Ward 5 Corporator Usha Kumar, MCC Zone-5 Assistant Commissioner Krishna, Assistant Engineer Abhilash, KSRTC (City Division) Deputy Transport Officer Marigowda, PWD Assistant Engineer Varun Kumar and others were present.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 21st December 2020

District Youth Festival on Dec. 24 at Chamundi Vihar Stadium

Mysuru, Dec. 21- The District Administration in association with Zilla Panchayat, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports Affairs, Nehru Yuva Kendra and NSS has organised District-level Youth Festival (Yuvajanotsava) at Chamundi Vihar Stadium in Nazarbad here on Dec. 24 at 10 am.

Youths aged between 15 and 29 years including School and College students, members registered in various Youth Associations and Rajiv Gandhi Yuvashakti Sanghas can take part in the event. Participants can register their names at the venue also after producing photocopies of SSLC marks card or birth certificate at 8 am on Dec. 24.

Winners of the contests are eligible to participate in State-level Youth Fest early next year. Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Manipuri, Kuchupudi, Kathak dance, Classical Instrumental music (sitar, flute, tabla, veena, mridanga, harmonium, guitar), Karnatak and Hindustani vocal music, Pick and Speak (only in English or Hindi), One-Act play (only in English or Hindi) and folk music and dance contests have been organised. Interested may contact Ph: 0821-2564179, according to a release from Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports Affairs Om Prakash.

Ph.D awardees

Mysuru, Dec.21- Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, has awarded Ph.D in Management to **R. Gunavathi** for her thesis 'A Study of Transactional Analysis as a tool for Managers to assess employees to re-inforce conducive HR environment in Industries', submitted under the guidance of Dr. S. Ramaswamy.

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi has awarded Ph.D in Management to **D. Shilpa** for her thesis 'E-Banking Services: A Comparative Study of Select Public and Private Sector Banks in Mysore District' [Guide: Dr. K.P. Veena].

Tumkur University, Tumkur, has awarded Ph.D in Social Work to **G.V. Indushekar** for his thesis 'A Study on Care and Protection of Children in Institutional and Non-Institutional Services to Ensure Juvenile Justice in Karnataka' submitted under the guidance of Prof. K.G. Parashuram.

The University of Mysore has awarded Ph.D in Psychology to **M.S. Rekha** for her thesis 'Adjustment and Psychological Well-Being among Elderly Working and Non-working Persons' [Guide: Dr. C. Ramaswamy.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has raised an issue that lies at the heart of India's information flows, media ecosystem, and, therefore, democratic functioning. He said that the print media is adapting to the digital medium with sincerity, but added that information generated by the print media at substantial cost was being "hijacked by social media giants." It is heartening that India's top national leadership is finally paying attention to an issue that has implications for how news is produced, how it is consumed, how narratives are formed, who become the primary players in the information theatre, and how this, then, enables citizens to access information and exercise their choice.

The issue here is not about profit or loss. It is about a principle — can a few digital monopolies hide behind the pretence of being intermediaries while exercising editorial control and extract profits from work done by others? Naidu has triggered an important debate and a bipartisan consensus is essential to rein in social media companies, and treat them as just that, media companies which must follow the law both in their content and their business models. *— In The Hindustan Times*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Bruised banana art of Anna Chojnicka

London: The Covid-19 lockdowns have had a very different effect on people. While the boredom made some depressed, it actually helped others discover hidden talents. Take Anna Chojnicka, who started creating adorable banana peel artworks.

To pass the time and keep her creative juices flowing, social entrepreneur Anna Chojnicka started experimenting with banana peel oxidation as an art medium. Instead of doodling on canvas or paper, she decided to simply bruise bananas with thin, blunt objects and let oxidation do the rest. The bruised peel becomes darker as the hours go by, revealing the design etched into it. From intricate scenes that require a strong knowledge of light and shading, to detailed portraits or goofy illustrations, there seems to be no limit to Anna Chojnicka's banana bruising capabilities.

Tilted apartment buildings of Santos

Santos: Santos, the birthplace of Pele, the greatest football player ever, is also famous for its unique looking waterfront skyline, which looks, well, a bit tilted.

The leaning apartment buildings of Santos have been around for decades, and even though the problem has been getting worse over time, so far authorities have chosen not to intervene, claiming the edifices are perfectly safe. The Santos skyline is made up of 651 buildings, all of which are somewhat tilted. But the issue isn't only aesthetic, some apartments have windows and doors that no longer close properly, and others have plumbing issues. There have also been reports of inhabitants experiencing loss of balance issues on level ground, from spending too much time in their tilted apartments.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Minimize Your Sugar Intake

Added sugar is not recommended, as large amount can harm your metabolic health. High sugar intake is linked to numerous ailments, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and many varied forms of cancer.

By Kavya. J - Department of Dietetics & Nutrition

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mysuru

Figures as per Government Media Bulletin released last evening

Positive cases yesterday	:	75
Total positive cases	:	51,807
Discharges yesterday	:	32
Total discharges	:	50,373
Deaths yesterday	:	0
Total deaths	:	1,006
Total active cases	:	428

Mandya

Positive cases yesterday	:	34
Total positive cases	:	19,235
Total discharges	:	18,876
Total deaths	:	147
Total active cases	:	212

Chamarajanagar

Positive cases yesterday	:	16
Total positive cases	:	6,655
Total discharges	:	6,422
Total deaths	:	119
Total active cases	:	103

Kodagu

Positive cases yesterday	:	17
Total positive cases	:	5,618
Total discharges	:	5,405
Total deaths	:	70
Total active cases	:	143

Hassan

Positive cases yesterday	:	23
Total positive cases	:	27,730
Total discharges	:	27,089
Total deaths	:	389
Total active cases	:	252

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Two guys coming out of the examination hall with chips and coke in hand.

1st guy: *Which paper was it?*

2nd guy: *I think, math.*

1st guy: *Surprisingly, you read the question paper?*

2nd guy: *No, I saw the girl sitting beside me using a calculator!!*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.66
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 98.39
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.05
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.76

VOICE OF THE READER

Rectify these pits in the middle of road

Sir,

This is regarding the Inner Ring Road in between Vishweshwaranagar and JP Nagar near Shaneeshwara temple. At two places, there are deep openings (drainage line) right in the middle of the Road which may lead to accidents.

Very recently, MCC had repaired the Road but did not bother to set right these two pits.

On behalf of hundreds of motorists who pass by this Road, I request the MCC authorities to do the needful and rectify the pits at the earliest.

—S.Kanthaswamy
Vishweshwaranagar 10.12.2020

Toll Plaza-free India: Why make FASTag mandatory?

Sir,

Apropos the news item '**FASTag mandatory for all 4-wheelers**' (*SOM* dated Dec.19), I wish to express my dismay at the strange rules without application of mind by the authorities.

The report says that all 4-wheelers with no exception to have this tag from Jan.1, 2021. It also links the same with denying renewal of insurance and registration if tag is not purchased.

I wonder what is the logic in excluding the two-wheelers from this scheme. Do they not have to pay the toll?

My question is, why a car owner like me, a senior citizen, having no intention or occasion to go near the Highway or a Toll Plaza but use the car only in city limits be subjected to this mandatory tag? Why purchase a tag which will not be used at all? Why link the insurance to the issues of tag? How does not having a tag is linked to the insurance concerns of the vehicle or the owner?

In the case of promoting electric two-wheelers, the same kind of lack of application of mind is apparent. For all E- 2 wheelers of speed ability less than 30 kmph, the requirement of Driving Licence, Registration, Helmet are all given a go-by. Why? Do they not cause accidents, being stolen, involve head injury, or violate the traffic rules?

Instead of finding better ways to help promotion of E-2 wheelers, the present rules create a new regime of lawless road-users.

Hope our representatives take up the issues with the Ministries concerned at the State and Central level and modify the rules to be more realistic.

I wish to bring to your attention another report right below the subject matter which says '**India to be Toll Plaza-free in next two years.**' If the long-term objective is to be Toll Plaza-free India, then why make this FASTag mandatory just for two years?

—Prof. B.S. Shankara (retd.)
Mysuru 20.12.2020

Highway toll deducted by mistake to be refunded through FASTag

Bengaluru, Dec. 21 (Agencies) - Here is some good news for vehicle owners who are facing extra toll cuts at Toll Plazas. Now after deducting toll by mistake, the money will be returned immediately. Bengaluru-based WheelsEye has started the facility of instant information alerts and quick refunds for toll cuts through FASTag. For this WheelsEye has partnered with IDFC Bank.

According to WheelsEye, their modern FASTag management system will automatically detect wrong toll cuts and return the money within 3 to 7 days. This process used to take about 30 days after first filing the complaint. The new system is Artificial Intelligence-enabled FASTag administration system

According to a report, over Rs. 70 crore of toll is paid daily from FASTag. A recent survey stated, "In almost 3 percent of daily toll payments, tolls are accidentally overcharged and most vehicle owners are suffering from the error of the FASTag system. Moreover, the problem increases when the hearing is not fast even if the wrong toll is cut."

An IDFC Bank spokesperson said, "Double / wrong toll cuts have become a bigger problem than anticipated. This initiative will strengthen trust in the FASTag system and also encourage vehicle owners to adopt FASTag."

WheelsEye spokesman Soneesh Jain said, "Toll collection system is still being implemented. Small mistakes keep coming in technology and vehicle owners have to bear the brunt of it. Our main goal is to minimise the FASTag troubles of truck owners. For this, our team has put together the entire process of returning the money automatically and quickly in just 3-7 days. So far no other company has solved the problem of wrong toll reduction."

FASTags will become mandatory from Jan. 1, 2021 in order to promote completely cashless transactions and reduce congestion at Toll Plazas. Studies project that FASTag collections will rise by three times from 2021 thus making the automated refund feature more crucial moving forward.

'Using solar energy in every household will increase self-sufficiency'

Exhibition on solar energy products held

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (RK&BCT)- India's abundant solar energy potential provides a clean and attainable replacement for the extremely harmful, polluting and rapidly depleting conventional sources of energy. Using solar energy in every household will increase self-sufficiency and at the same time will enable energy conservation and a lot of savings in electricity bills, said Additional Commissioner of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) N.M. Shashikumar.

He was speaking after inaugurating National Energy Safety Day organised by Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) at Institution of Engineers auditorium recently. He opined that solar energy is the only way to ease power shortage in Karnataka. If every household utilises solar energy then the burden of supplying power will reduce and this will enable Karnataka to be self-reliant, he said.

Karnataka is the pioneer in renewable energy-based power generation. Though 25 percent of the energy comes from sources, majority of the potential are still not exploited. "Currently, the State is facing electricity deficiency problem where the supply-demand gap is becoming wider, he added.

"Karnataka is generating 15,261 Mega Watt power from mini hydro-electric stations, wind energy, power from sugar factories, bioenergy and solar energy. This generation, though encouraging, is not sufficient at all for the State to minimise the use on electricity. Using freely available energy like the solar energy, one can achieve electricity savings and at the same time be environment-friendly," Shashikumar opined.

In his introductory remarks, KREDL Project Engineer D.K. Dinesh Kumar said that with an intention of promoting use of solar energy, the State Government has implemented many projects including the solar rooftop project. Under the project the solar power can be used for household purposes while the surplus power will be transmitted to the electricity grid by the meter.

This initiative encourages people to harness solar power and generate electricity to meet their domestic needs. This initiative also aimed at gradually reducing the burden on the State electricity companies, he explained.

On this occasion, an exhibition on solar energy products, renewable energy and alternative energy sources was organised. District Director of Srikshetra Dharmasthala Gramabhivruddhi Yojana Trust V. Vijayakumar Naganala and others were present.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dak Adalat

Postal Department, Yadavagiri, will be conducting its quarterly Dak Adalat at the Divisional Office, Mysore Postal Department, on Dec. 28 at 11 am. Public can submit their grievances in writing before Dec. 22 to the Office of the Senior Superintendent of Posts, Mysuru.

Calling artistes

In an effort to create awareness among public about projects implemented by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Dept. is planning to stage street plays in select villages of various taluks of Mysuru, for the year 2020-21. Those interested to participate in this awareness programme may register their names at the Office of Mysuru District Health and Family Welfare Officer before Dec. 25. The Dept. will be sending the head of the folk team for training, which has been organised at District Agriculture Training Centre, Naganahalli, from Dec. 31 to Jan. 2, 2021 with free boarding facility at the Centre for participants.

Pre-Budget Meet

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) will be holding the first round of meeting with the public ahead of the budget for the year 2021-22, at Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar auditorium of MCC on Dec. 23 at 11 am. Mayor Tasneem will chair the meeting, according to a release.

Inauguration of resting shelter

Rotary District Governor (Dist. 3181) Rtn. Ranganath Bhat will inaugurate the resting shelter at MMC&RI tomorrow (Dec. 22) at 10 am, under the aegis of Rotary Mysore Midtown. Journalist Swathi Chandrashekar will be the chief guest. MMC&RI Dean & Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj and District Governor-Elect Rtn. A.R. Ravindra Bhat will be the guests of honour.

KRS Water Level

(Maximum : 124.80 feet)

Today	119.44 ft
Yesterday	119.48 ft
Inflow	2,424 cusecs
Outflow	2,832 cusecs

Kabini Level

(Maximum : 2,284.00 feet)

Today	2,271.08 ft
Inflow	511 cusecs
Outflow	800 cusecs

Harangi Level

(Maximum : 2,859.00 feet)

Today	2,820.93 ft
Inflow	117 cusecs
Outflow	1020 cusecs

Suspected alternative sites racket

MUDA Chairman inspects allotted sites of alternative site seekers

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (RK&DM)- With applications seeking alternative sites piling up, Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Chairman H.V. Rajeev on Friday went on an inspection spree in different localities of the city for a physical inspection of MUDA allotted sites in order to get a first hand information on the veracity of claims made by several site allottees who have sought alternative sites in other developed localities on one ground or the other, such as encroachment of allotted site, drainage running closeby, highly uneven land, rocky land, inaccessibility to roads etc.

Rajeev's inspection, which was held at Srirampura, Sathagalli, Bannimantap, Dattagalli and other surrounding localities on Friday, comes days after he had undertaken a similar inspection in other localities earlier this week.

His inspection assumes significance in the wake of allegations that a real estate racket is behind most of the applications through which alternative sites in fully developed localities are sought by MUDA site allottees under various pretexts such as the ones mentioned above, with an ulterior motive of making huge profits by selling them (alternative sites) at huge prices.

Rajeev, who got suspicious about the growing number of applications seeking alternative sites and about the issue of alternative sites, along with other issues such as allotment of bit of land and change of land use topping the agenda at MUDA Council Meetings, decided to personally undertake inspection of MUDA allotted sites to verify the veracity of claims made by applicants who sought alternative sites citing the reasons mentioned above.

Rajeev got all the more suspicious about the big number of alternative site applications as MUDA allots sites only after the layouts are fully developed with availability of civic amenities such as drinking water, roads, UGD system, park, power etc.

During inspection, Rajeev took photos and videographed the sites of allottees who are now seeking alternative sites and made a note of his observations in the corresponding files at MUDA Office.

Following the inspections, Rajeev is said to have directed the officials to bring only genuine applications before the MUDA Council Meeting and to dispose off all other applications at the official level itself by mentioning the reasons for rejection.

MUDA Secretary M.K. Savitha, Executive Engineers (EE) Panduranga and Satish, AEEs Ravindra, Narendra Babu and Bhaskar and other officials accompanied Rajeev during the inspection.

Primary School Teacher Polls

130 Directors elected from dist.

Mysuru, Dec. 21- A total of 130 Directors have been elected from 10 educational taluks of the district in the elections that were held for Karnataka State Primary School Teachers Association recently.

There are over 6,500 Primary School teachers in the district and more than 80 percent of them voted in the elections, which was contested by 350 teachers collectively. Every Director will represent 50 teachers.

Breakup of elected Directors in the District is as follows: Mysuru taluk-19, Mysuru South-2, Mysuru North-6, Nanjangud-22, T. Narasipur-15, Saragur-5, H.D. Kote-12, Hunsur-20, Periyapatna-15 and K.R. Nagar-14. The election to office-bearer posts at the Taluk, District and State-level will take place on Dec. 29.

25 transport workers face action for violence during bus strike

Bengaluru, Dec. 21- A total of 25 workers belonging to the four State-run Transport Corporations of the State will face action for assaulting fellow staff who attended work and damaged buses during the four-day Statewide stir launched by transport workers from Dec. 11 to 14, seeking Government employee status for them.

A joint press release issued by the four Transport Corporations — KSRTC, BMTC, NEKRTC and NWKRTC — said that disciplinary action against 13 workers of KSRTC, 3 of BMTC and 9 of NEKRTC and none of NWKRTC has been taken for various offences.

Maintaining that disciplinary action has been taken only in a limited proportion in cases where FIRs have been registered, the release clarified that, however, no decision has been taken as yet regarding deduction of wages for the strike period of four days.

HOPCOMS to door deliver horticultural produce to ashrams, hostels, hospitals

Mysuru, Dec. 21- City's HOPCOMS, which is providing door delivery of fresh fruits and vegetables to the doorsteps of residents at reasonable rates through its online services, has now extended its services to ashrams, hotels and hospitals.

Customers are required to download its mobile app 'Hopcoms Online' and register their names to browse the prices of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Booked orders will be delivered to the doorsteps, according to a press release from the ex-officio Deputy Director of District Horticulture Department, Mysuru.

For details, contact Mob: 82778-14143.

Fruits, vegetables best medicines for kids: DC

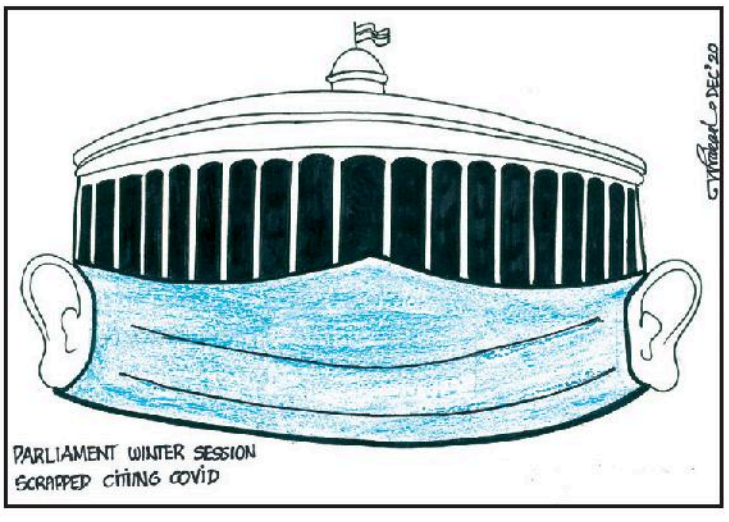
Mysuru, Dec. 21- Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri has advised the parents to educate their children about the importance of food and serve more fruits and vegetables during mealtime.

She was speaking after inaugurating a training programme 'The role of nutritious food in leading a healthy life,' organised for hostel wardens of Social Welfare Department by Zilla Panchayat (ZP) in association with AYUSH Department, under the Special Component Plan (SCP) scheme, which was held on Thursday last.

DC Rohini Sindhuri advised the hostel wardens to practice consumption of nutritious food in their homes and be a role model for hostel inmates.

Department of Welfare of Scheduled Caste Project Co-ordinator Prabha, Joint Director of Social Welfare Department Muniraju, Dr. Vinay and Dr. Seethalakshmi of AYUSH were present.

TEASER By N. Prakash



India may get first COVID-19 jab in January, says Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Health workers, frontline workers like Police, military and sanitation staff to get vaccines first

New Delhi, Dec. 21 (UNI& Agencies)- Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan this morning said that the Centre has prioritised 30 crore people for a vaccine against COVID-19.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan

"I personally feel may be in January in any stage or any week, there can be a time when we can be in a position to give first vaccine shot to the people of India," Dr. Harsh Vardhan said.

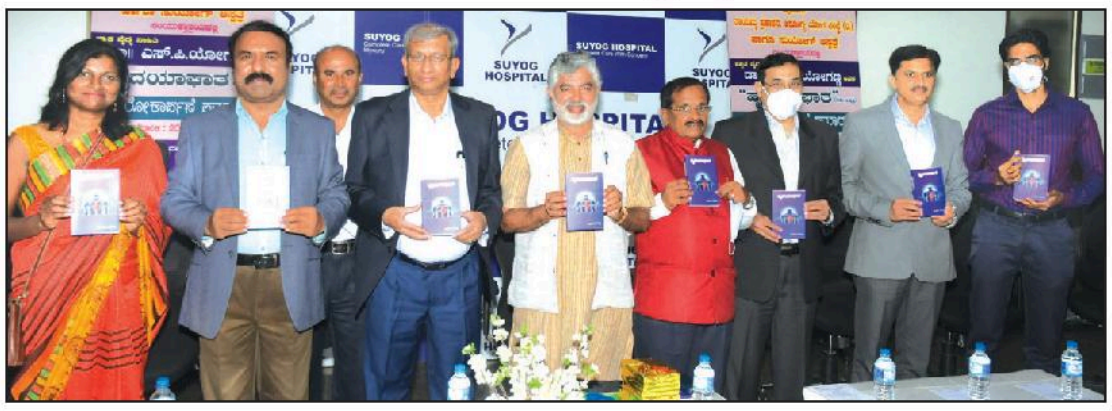
Speaking to news agencies, he said, "After consultation with experts, we have prioritised 30 crore people for COVID vaccine. It includes health workers, frontline workers like Police, military and sanitation staff, people above 50 years and those who are below 50 years but are suffering from certain diseases."

The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC), headed by NITI Aayog Member Dr. V.K. Paul, has recommended that 10 million healthcare staff, 20 million frontline workers and 270 million people over the age of 50 or with co-morbidities be given the vaccines on priority once it becomes available.

The Minister said that the vaccines that have applied for emergency use authorisation are being analysed by the drug regulator. "India is not less than any country when it comes to COVID-19 vaccine and research. Our priority has been the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. We do not want any compromise on that. Our regulators are analysing them with seriousness," he said.

On voluntary Covid-19 vaccination, the Health Minister said that the Government's effort is that everyone on the priority list takes the vaccine. "We will address the issue of vaccine hesitancy. But if anyone decides not to take it, we can't force them," Dr. Harsh Vardhan said.

Kendra Sahitya Akademi must include Medical literature: Rangayana Director



Mysuru, Dec. 21 (PM&BCT)- There is a need to include medical literature in the publication and awards divisions of Kendra Sahitya Akademi. "Medical literature gives a reader a peek into the future of humanity, future of medicine and the future of life itself. It shows the moral dimensions of the person's (doctor's) chosen profession and their search for the meaning of life itself," said Rangayana Director Addanda C. Cariappa.

He was speaking after releasing the book "Hrudayaghata" (Heart Attack) third edition written by Suyog Hospital Chairman Dr. S.P. Yoganna. The event was held at the hospital premises in Ramakrishnanagar yesterday and was organised by District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Suyog Hospital and Thayamma Publications.

Cariappa, who is also the Member of Kendra Sahitya Akademi, said that he will raise the issue of medical literature being included in the publications and awards division at the meeting chaired by Akademi Chairman Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambar.

Diverting his speech on the affairs of Rangayana, Cariappa said that when he took over as the Director, several vested interests branded him as a Right Wing activist. "These people took to a smear campaign to further their own selfish interests. But now they have realised that I have no Left or Right views but what is important to me is the upkeep and functioning of Rangayana. Nothing else matters. I am like a watchdog and I will strive for the overall development of the theatre repertoire," he added.

Youngsters prone to heart attacks

Sharing his thoughts on heart ailments, Dr. K.S. Sadananda, Medical Superintendent of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, regretted that these days many youngsters die of heart attacks and many youngsters have a lot of heart ailments.

"Dietary choices such as exposure and access to ultra-processed food, weight and obesity, sedentary lifestyle and decreased physical activity have increased the risk. So much so experts aren't surprised by the fact that heart attacks are climbing in young people. These bad habits are starting in early childhood now and needs urgent attention," he said.

In fact, 20 percent of people who have a heart attack are 40 or younger, a rate that has risen 2 percent a year for 10 years, new research reports say. "Some of these people are now in their 20s and early 30s. These young heart attack victims also have the same risks of dying from another heart attack or stroke as older patients," he revealed.

Even if a person is in his 20s or 30s, once he has had a heart attack, he is at risk for more cardiovascular events. This is as much risk as someone who may be older. Risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, family history of premature heart attack and high cholesterol were the same among older and young people who suffered a heart attack, Dr. Sadananda said.

"Many people think that a heart attack is destined to happen, but the vast majority could be prevented with earlier detection of the disease and aggressive lifestyle changes and management of other risk factors," he added.

The book release event was inaugurated by Karnataka State Open University Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar. Noted Cardiologist Dr. Arun Srinivas, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Dr. Y.D. Rajanna, author Dr. S.P. Yoganna, Cardiologists Dr. Vinu and Dr. Aditya Udupa and others were present.

JD(S) to merge with BJP soon?

Bengaluru, Dec. 21- With former Chief Minister and JD(S) stalwart H.D. Kumaraswamy reportedly getting closer to the BJP, rumours are doing the rounds in the State capital that the merger of JD(S) with the ruling BJP may happen anytime from now. However, both the BJP and JD(S) have dismissed talks of merger saying that it is just a speculation.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader Aravind Limbavali, speaking to reporters in the State capital on Sunday, said that political polarisation is going to take place in the State soon, with a major party of the State likely to merge with BJP. However, he cannot disclose the nature of polarisation right now, he said.

Slamming Opposition leader and former Chief Minister Siddharamaiah for saying that JD(S) is the 'B' team of BJP, Limbavali wondered why the Congress chose to join hands with JD(S) after the 2018 Assembly polls for forming a coalition Government.

Replying to a question on why the Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill was not tabled during the winter session of the State Legislature held earlier this month, he said that the BJP has no majority in the Legislative Council.

BSY and HDK scotch rumours

Meantime, Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa and his predecessor H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday spiked reports of any possibility of a merger of the two parties. In a statement issued on Sunday, Yediyurappa said there was no question of admitting JD(S) legislators into the BJP or making attempts for the merger of the two parties. The understanding with the JD(S) was limited to a one-off event to dislodge Legislative Council Chairman Pratapchandra Shetty of the Congress, he added.

Kumaraswamy, on his part, sent out a series of tweets on Sunday scotching rumours of his party's merger with the BJP. Maintaining that the JD(S) is a party of Kannadigas with self-esteem, he said the party will never think of a political merger. Asserting that there was no question of a merger, he said that at the most, the JD(S) will extend issue based support to the BJP.

PM Narendra Modi wishing Kumaraswamy on his birthday on Dec.16 was read by many observers that the two parties were closing the gaps between them.

C.M. Ibrahim likely to join JD(S) after Jan.15?

Bengaluru, Dec. 21- Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader C.M. Ibrahim, who is said to be disappointed with the party for sidelining him, is likely to quit Congress and join the JD(S) after Jan.15.

According to sources, Ibrahim is said to be unhappy with Congress for neglecting him for long and is seriously mulling quitting the party at an appropriate time.

Earlier this month, JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D.Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister H.D.Kumaraswamy are said to have called on Ibrahim at his residence in the State capital on separate days and held talks with him, during which the two are learnt to have invited him to JD(S).

Following the talks, Ibrahim is said to be determined to quit the Congress, despite persuasion by KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar from doing so, and join the JD(S) at an appropriate time, probably after Jan.15, the sources added.

Obituary

Bharathi U. Prabhakar

Mysuru, Dec. 21- Bharathi U. Prabhakar (72), wife of U.R. Prabhakar Uttarkar and a resident of V.V. Mohalla passed away this morning. She leaves behind her husband, a daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites will be held at Chirashantidhama in Gokulam today after 3 pm.

Mallaiah

Mallaiah (75), retired Assistant at the Health Department and a resident of Gundurao Nagar, passed away yesterday in city. A native of Chinnadagudi Hundi in Nanjangud, he leaves behind his wife Nagamma, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill today.

Ahamed Pasha

Ahamed Pasha (70), retired Accounts Superintendent at KSRTC, passed away on Dec. 18 at his residence in Bannimantap.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and a host of relatives and friends Namaz-e-Janaza was held on the same day after Asar Namaz at Masjid-e-Firdose in Bannimantap followed by burial at Muslim Burial Grounds near Tipu Circle.

POLICY POLITICS & PEOPLE

By Dr. R. Balasubramaniam

Paying our taxes: Should we or shouldn't we?

A few months ago, Sneha (name changed) had been to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) branch office near her home to pay the house tax. She was aware that she was eligible for a 5% discount if she paid the taxes due for the current year before the 31st of May. The concerned clerk at the MCC Office asked her to leave her filled-in form and her mobile number with him. He mentioned that he would call her within a week or two once he had verified the details and she could pay the tax after that.

Considering the COVID situation, she believed that this procedure was to maintain social distancing and minimal footfall in the office. Not having heard from him for weeks on end, she visited the office a couple of times before she learnt that Rs. 100 would do the trick. She had to grease this clerk's palm and magically the details were verified and the tax was accepted within the hour.

For many, this is not an isolated incident and will be something that they may have experienced too. Sneha was outraged that she had to cough up this 'convenience fee' for paying taxes. Any delay in her tax being accepted before the deadline would have meant that she lose the discount of 5%. Unwilling and helpless by the prevailing circumstances, she ended up being a victim of the corrupt system.

What agitated her more was the fact that she felt that the Government must feel happy that she was paying her taxes promptly each year instead of creating such barriers for her. And this was at the same time, the MCC was spending public resources on creating awareness amongst the general public on the need and urgency to pay their taxes.

Paying taxes is the responsibility of every citizen and one needs to understand the historical evolution of the concept of taxation. The word has a Latin root and the etymological meaning of the word 'tax' is 'estimate or determine the amount of a penalty or damages.' Embedded in the word is a negative construct and the fear of penalty instead of a feeling of responsibility or obligation or an expectation of service in lieu of payment made. This deep-rooted construct continues to this day, in most countries around the world.

In India, the system of direct taxation as it is known today has been in force in one form or another from ancient times. The *Arthasastra* and *Manusmriti* refer to a variety of tax measures. *Arthasastra* talks about the specificity of taxes levied and there was no scope for arbitrariness. Tax collectors determined the schedule of each payment and its time, manner and quantity being all pre-determined. The land revenue was fixed at one sixth share of the produce and import and export duties were determined on ad-valorem basis.

The import duties on foreign goods were roughly twenty percent of their value. Similarly, tolls, road cess, ferry charges and other levies were all fixed. Kautilya also laid down that during war or emergencies like famine or floods, the taxation system should be made more stringent and the King could also raise war loans. His concept of taxation emphasised equity and justice. The affluent had to pay higher taxes as compared to the poor and his thoughts were influenced by egalitarianism and the concept of re-distribution.

The ability to raise revenues from taxes — called "fiscal capacity" — is a crucial aspect for the functioning of any State. Being able to tax citizens and collect revenues efficiently, is a cornerstone of State formation and survival. Secondly, greater fiscal capacity implies greater access of the State to resources needed to provide public goods and services. Unfortunately, developing countries are only able to raise a small share of taxes as a percentage of their GDP.

The average Tax-GDP ratio in high-income countries is around 40% whereas it is less than 10% in India currently. This means the Government has less money mobilised for delivering goods and services to its citizens. It is in this backdrop that one should view the productivity, efficiency and necessity of public expenditures.

The low rates of taxation are the consequence of several problems. First, is the large size of the informal economy that exists in India. Second, a lack of investment in tax collection — most developing countries rely on sales taxes, which are easier to administrate than personal taxes, is less political and is more equitable. The other reason is tax compliance and citizen responsiveness. Most Indians do not believe that the State is fulfilling its responsibility in providing quality goods and services to the citizens as part of its obligation. Mal-administration, lack of accountability of public servants, corruption and an overall trust deficit are contributory factors in deepening this perception. Added to this are lack of publicly visible penalties to act as a deterrence to tax defaulters and complex and opaque taxation systems that are designed for regulation rather than facilitation.

Taxation systems around the world are driven by two major principles. These are the belief that taxes should be based on the individual's ability to pay (ability-to-pay principle) and the benefit principle, the idea that there should be some equivalence between what the individual pays and the benefits he subsequently receives from governmental activities.

A good tax system should also meet five basic conditions — fairness, adequacy, simplicity, transparency and administrative ease. Apart from fulfilling the fiscal needs of the State, taxes also enable regulatory and stimulating functions. It helps the State regulate the kind of expenses society can prioritise on (Sin taxes on tobacco and alcohol), bring in a semblance of equity among its citizens, prioritise special areas of development by generating cess on taxes etc. Proper tax planning can also help the Government stimulate citizen expenditure on some key sectors like housing, health care, automobiles etc.

They can also promote people to participate in civic activities and contribute to charitable causes. Some economists also argue that a tax system should not interfere with market decision making, along with the more obvious need of avoiding complexity and corruption.

Paying taxes is not just an obligatory necessity of citizenship. It also confers a moral and legal framework based on which the State can be held accountable by its citizens. One must also keep in mind that every Indian today is paying taxes in one form or the other. It is easy to equate only Direct Taxes as taxes that a citizen pays and overlook the fact that we are all paying the GST in virtually tens of transactions each day. Whether it is the salt that we buy, the movie that we watch, the life insurance premium that we pay, the food that we order online or the petrol we fill — GST has entered into the transactional DNA of the country's economy in a subtle and comprehensive manner.

What is now needed is the mindful awareness that all public servants and public services are financed by these taxes and are to be held accountable by the 'paymaster' — the ordinary people of this country. And only when this happens, can we claim to have the rights due to a tax-payer.

Considering the current reality, we need to appreciate that building a fiscally capable State won't bring benefits in the short-term. Changing institutions takes time, and changes in the law don't immediately translate into changes in behaviour. But it's nevertheless key to consolidating working political institutions, providing strong checks and balances on the discretionary power of the executive and building confidence among tax-payers. More importantly, it is a visible measure of a mature and participatory democracy.

[Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Founder of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and GRAAM, is a public policy advocate and development activist. He is a visiting professor at Cornell University and IIT-Delhi. He can be reached at email@rbalu.com]

City properties to get QR codes

(Continued from page 1)

The volunteers would be given honorarium and would try to complete the process before March 31, 2021. Firstly, they would survey every single property and store it in data bank for all references.

The door-to-door survey would also help the MCC to find out tax defaulters, wrongly showing commercial buildings as residential and paying less tax, floor area rule violations, encroachments and other wrongdoings. Owners of such properties could be brought into tax net and also take legal action if violations cannot be regularised. Leakage of property tax could be eliminated completely once they switch over to new system, he noted.

QR board in PVC material

Hegde said the QR code board would be of PVC material as it would prevent damage during rain or burn under the sun as it would be barcoded. The Corporation would distribute PVC material QR code board to every house or a commercial establishment through which the people can scan it with their mobile phone and make payments online.

Besides, with QR code, citizens could also vote in *Swachh Survekshan* in judging the cleanest city in different categories. Plans are afoot to put videos on informative subjects like garbage disposal, plastic ban and general reminders for tax payment could be uploaded in it for enabling people to watch it.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed as it is our ambitious plan to show to the entire nation that 'We did it' and streamline property tax payment system from April 1, 2021. We are racing against time as hardly four months are left," he pointed out.

Other benefits of QR

"Since we do not maintain Demand and Collection Register properly and are not able to calculate the arrears of properties after the end of financial year, the tax collection stands low. With QR code generation, any alteration in the property be it structural or ownership will get reflected in MCC records," an MCC officer said.

"Not only tax collection, but once we have digitised records, it will enable Government to link other Government Schemes and transfer of benefits to citizens using the same QR code," he added.

MCC to set up three disabled child day care centres

Ten personalities honoured with Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Award to mark International Day of Disabled Persons

Mysuru, Dec.21 (PM&DM)- Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar said that the MCC is planning to set up three disabled child day care centres in the city in the coming days.

He was speaking after inaugurating the International Day of Disabled Persons programme organised by Mysuru Unit of Karnataka State Federation of Persons with Disabilities, in association with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Abhyudaya Seva Samsthe at Parents Association of Deaf Children premises in Bogadi Second Stage here this morning.

Pointing out that the three centres are proposed to come up at the Government School near Jayanagar Railway bridge, Government Deaf and Dumb School at Tilaknagar and Government School near Fountain Circle, Shashikumar highlighted the schemes launched by Government and the MCC for the welfare of the disabled.

Declaring that the MCC has proposed to distribute Rs.5,000 per month as care allowance for the parents of disabled children, he said that the proposal is at a formulation stage with the modalities being worked out for the introduction of the scheme.

Noting that the MCC has launched a survey of disabled children and persons with disabilities living in city limits, he said that the civic body will evolve more plans upon receiving statistical inputs from the survey. The MCC has reserved five percent of its revenues for the welfare of the disabled, he added.

Senior Civil Judge and DLSA Member-Secretary B.P. Devamane, who presided, said that the Authority will extend all forms of legal aid to persons with disabilities free of cost.

Observing that the MCC and other Government agencies must ensure that all their schemes and initiatives meant for the disabled reached the targeted beneficiaries, he said that disabled persons who are deprived of their rightful benefits and entitlements, can contact the DLSA for getting their problems addressed.

Ten personalities who have been working for the cause of disabled persons — M. Ramadevi, Notary; Suresh, Hotel owner; Ganesh Bhat, musician; Ganesh, Paralympic athlete; Ebenezer, Physically challenged advocate; Ramesh Shetty, literary activist; Ravichandra, Social worker; Gururaj, Social worker; Tanveer, Organiser working for the disabled and Chowdaiah, Paralympic sportsperson who is self-employed — were conferred Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar State award on the occasion.

Federation President Mahesh Gowda, Secretary Madesh Chandra, Hon. President Ramachandra, Corporator Nirmala Harish, PADC Secretary Dinakar Shetty, Abhyudaya Seva Samsthe President M. Prabhuswamy, Vice-President Asgar Pasha, Joint Secretary M. Kiran Kumar, District Disabled Welfare office staff Ravikumar, Arjun and others were present.

Five taluks in district go for GP polls tomorrow

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (RKB&DM)- Five taluks of the district — Periyapatna, Hunsur, K.R. Nagar, H.D. Kote and Saragur — will go for the Gram Panchayat (GP) polls in the first phase of polling tomorrow (Dec.22).

The elections are apolitical and candidates are barred from using party symbols.

There are a total of 148 GPs having 2,303 seats collectively in these five taluks. However, voting will take place only for 2,174 seats, as members to 123 seats have been elected unanimously, while no voting will take place for six seats as no nominations were received. A total of 7,22,019 voters are eligible to cast their ballots in tomorrow's election.

The 148 GPs going to the polls tomorrow, include 41 in Hunsur taluk, 34 in K.R. Nagar, 34 in Periyapatna, 26 in H.D.Kote and 13 in Saragur taluk.

In Hunsur, 1,593 candidates are contesting for 555 member seats in 41 GPs, while 1,495 candidates are contesting for 527 member seats in 34 GPs of K.R. Nagar, 1,408 candidates for 521 member seats in 34 GPs of Periyapatna, 1,106 candidates for 366 member seats in 26 GPs of H.D.Kote and 583 candidates for 185 member seats in 13 GPs of Saragur, with the total number of candidates being 6,185.

The voting will take place through ballot papers and the polling staff have been instructed to apply indelible ink on the voter's left thumb. The voters are required to bring their voter ID card or any other ID card that has their photo for casting vote.

As a COVID-19 protocol measure, all the voters and poll staff and Police on poll duty are required to undergo compulsory thermal screening, maintain physical distance and wear face masks. The polling staff have also been told to wear gloves as a safety measure.

The polling will take place in a total of 974 booths. While Hunsur has the highest number of polling booths (293), Saragur has the lowest (98), among the five taluks. **The voting will be held from 7 am to 5 pm.**

Mustering held at all five taluk centres this morning

With the polls taking place tomorrow, mustering was held at all the five taluk centres this morning. The District Administration had arranged 176 buses, 12 mini-buses and seven smaller vehicles to ferry poll staff to their assigned polling booths.

In order to maintain law and order and also to ensure free and fair polling, the District Administration has banned sale, storage, distribution or transportation of liquor in the limits of all the five taluks from 5 pm today till tomorrow evening.

The polling for GPs in the three other taluks of the district — Mysuru, T. Narasipur and Nanjangud — will take place in the second phase of polling on Dec. 27.

There are collectively 102 GPs in the three taluks, including 23 in Mysuru, 43 in Nanjangud and 36 in T. Narasipur taluks. The polling will take place only for 1,833 out of the 1,929 member seats of the 102 GPs, as members were unanimously elected for 82 seats while 14 seats will not go to the polls as they have not received any nominations.

The counting of votes of both the phases of elections will be taken up on Dec.30.

Tahsildars entrusted with responsibility of supplying food to poll staff

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (SPN & DM)- With the GP polls scheduled to take place on Dec. 22 and 27 in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri has directed the Tahsildars to take the responsibility of supplying food to all poll staff in their respective taluks.

In a circular issued a couple of days ago, the DC said that polling in Hunsur, Periyapatna, K.R. Nagar, H.D. Kote and Saragur taluks will take place on Dec.22 and in Mysuru, T. Narasipur and Nanjangud taluks on Dec. 27.

On the day of mustering (the night before polling day) and the polling day (morning breakfast and lunch), the Tahsildars should see to it that all polling staff, Health and Police Department personnel on poll duty in their respective taluk are supplied quality food and drinking water. Action will be taken as per Section 31 of Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Rules-1993, against Tahsildars and other officials if they fail in their responsibility, the circular said.

Annual General Body Meetings

Mysuru, Dec. 21 - The Annual General Body (AGM) of Kodagu Sahakara Sangha Ltd., Mysuru, will be held at the Sangha premises in Jayalakshmipuram on Dec. 23 at 10.30 am. Sangha President A.C. Nanjamma will preside.

The 14th AGM of Shri Kaveri Kodagu Mahila Sangha, Mysuru, will be held at Kodava Samaja premises in Vijayanagar on Dec. 25 at 10 am. Sangha President Moovera Bollamma Kuttappa will preside.

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By S.B.S.Surendran
Accredited Master Feng Shui Consultant

Towards good health

Enjoying good health is about having realistic expectations and caring for your body with respect. There's no point downing vitamin pills and energy boosting drinks when what your body really needs is adequate rest in a stress-free environment and good balanced diet.

Today's world is obsessed with fitness, and often confuses physical strength and stamina with general good health. The importance of good health is widely recognised today globally.

Observe your habits as you can workout what you expect from your body from how you are using the space immediately around you right now. Take few minutes to consider how you are positioning yourself. Check your surroundings and get to know what you see, where you are sitting. Good posture and comfort are vital to the effective functioning of the physical body.

Observer your breath, our breath is magical, it gives us life and determines the state of our body and mind. Blown onto freezing fingers, our breath is warm, blown onto something hot, our breath cools it. Breath nourishes our internal Chi.

Correct breathing is the secret remedy to a great many ills. If your breathing is bad or irregular or your have stooped shoulders and constricted throat and chest, suffering from dizzy spells, tiring out easily, getting upset very fast and short tempered, good breathing will help you overcome all this.

Good breathing is all about posture, when you open your shoulders; your chest cavity opens which in turn expands your lung capacity, thereby increasing the amount of air you take in. You can either breathe in and out through your nostrils or breathe in through nostrils and breathe out through mouth. Just visualise your breath filling all the three parts of your lungs. If you could, you can go a little further by engaging your tummy for a new breathing exercise by visualising the Chi entering your tummy, filling it and then visualise your tummy contracting as you breathe out.

Engage your tummy for a new breathing exercise by visualising the Chi entering your tummy, filling it and then visualise your tummy contracting as you breathe out. Do this lying down or standing up and you could place your palms on your tummy to feel it expand and contract. Visualise the Chi energy going all the way down to the ends of the limbs. This is a powerfully energising technique that will fill you with renewed energy.

Do this lying down or standing up and you could place your palms on your tummy to feel it expand and contract. Visualise the Chi energy going all the way down to the ends of the limbs — your toes and hands. This is a powerfully energising technique that will fill you with renewed energy.

It is not advisable to hold your breath, just create a regular and steady pattern of slow breaths and focus on making this kind of good posture breathing a habit. Feel your whole body suffused with wonderful fresh air and stagnant energy flowing out of you.

You will discover that with good breathing, your sense of well-being is considerably improved.

[fengshui@fengshuiserver.com]

Vidu. M.V. Jyothi presenting a music concert at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha premises in Gokulam on Saturday.

Renovated building of Sri Krishna Gana Sabha inaugurated

Bhramara Trust Managing Trustee Madhuri Thathachari lighting the lamp during the inauguration of the renovated building of Sri Krishna Gana Sabha (Alwar Kala Bhavan) located in Gokulam here on Saturday as Vidu. M.V. Jyothi, former MLA Vasu, MLC Marithibbegowda, Sabha President B.S. Sridhar Raje Urs and Corporator SBM Manju look on.

Mysuru, Dec. 21 (MK&SD)- MLC Marithibbegowda inaugurated the renovated building of Sri Krishna Gana Sabha (Alwar Kala Bhavan) located in Gokulam here on Saturday.

Former MLA Vasu, who was also present at the event, later addressed the gathering and lauded the contribution of Mysore Maharajas in the field of health and education. "One of the best example is Maharani's College where thousands of girls are studying. All the heritage buildings including that of University of Mysore have been built by the Maharajas," he said.

"The building of Sri Krishna Gana Sabha has been renovated using MLA's Local Area Development Fund. Tax-payers money is being spent in a meaningful way. I wish Sri Krishna Gana Sabha Charitable Trust would continue to promote and preserve our rich heritage through its cultural activities," he said.

The event culminated with classical music programme by Vidu. M.V. Jyothi.

Bhramara Trust Managing Trustee Madhuri Thathachari, Sabha President B.S. Sridhar Raje Urs, Corporator SBM Manju and others were present during the inauguration.

College magazine 'Ankura' released

Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, President of MMK&SDM Girls PU College, Mysuru, paid a visit to the College recently and inaugurated the newly installed lift facility at the institution. On this occasion, the biennial college magazine 'Ankura' was also released by the Padma Vibhushan Awardee. Degree College Principal Prof. Sainath Malligemadu, PU Principal (in-charge) Nayanakumari and others were present.

SKYWATCH

Great Conjunction-2020

Jupiter and Saturn to dance tonight

Tonight will be definitely memorable and remarkable for observational and amateur astronomers! In the history of Astronomy, today cannot be forgotten by any individual. Jupiter and Saturn will be exceptionally close in the recorded history and is referred to as 'Great Conjunction - 2020'.

Astronomy connoisseurs are in for an end-of-year extravagance. What has become known prevalently as the "Christmas Star", in reference to the Star of Bethlehem, is an exclusively vivacious planetary conjunction easily observable in the evening sky over the next two weeks as the bright planets Jupiter and Saturn come together, culminating on the night of Dec. 21.

A planetary conjunction transpires when planets appear unbelievably close to one another in the sky because they line up with Earth in their respective orbits. While the two planets may be watched as single point of light, they will remain hundreds of millions of miles apart in space, according to the experts of NASA. A conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn is comparatively sporadic and it happens about once every 20 years. For this reason, it is known as the great conjunction. The most celebrated planets, Jupiter and Saturn will be closest to each other in the sky on Dec. 21, tonight appearing only a tenth of a degree apart. They will remain in close alignment for a few days and will be effortlessly perceptible to the naked eye when looking towards the southwest just after sunset. Great Conjunction of this year marks the first time in nearly 800 years since the planets aligned at night and astronomy enthusiasts were able to witness this celestial-spectacle.

The planetary orbits of Saturn and Jupiter bring these planets into alignment once every 20 years or so, this year marks the first time since 1623 that the two gas giants have passed this close to one another. The Conjunction on July 16, 1623 was not noticeable to sky-watchers on much of the Earth because of its location in the night sky, so the last time the event was discernible was on March 5, 1226. The date of the planetary conjunction is determined by the stipulated positions of the gas giants — Jupiter, Saturn and the Earth — in their trajectory around the Sun, while the date of the solstice is determined by the tilt of Earth's axis.

Jupiter is the 2nd brightest planet after Venus. A few weeks before and after the Opposition on July 2020, Jupiter was extraordinarily bright, reaching a visual magnitude of about -2.5 to - 2.6. This was an excellent opportunity to perceive Jupiter, its Great Red Spot and Jupiter's four largest satellites namely Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. Jupiter stood opposite Sun in our sky, so it rises in the east at sunset and sets in the west at sunrise. Jupiter not only beams at its brilliant best for the year, but stays out all night long! From Mysuru, Jupiter will be perceptible between 7 pm to 6 am.

Analogously, on July 20, Saturn had rendezvous with Earth and was the right time to witness this gorgeous ringed planet. 'Saturn' is the sixth planet from the Sun and the outermost planet perfectly noticeable with the unaided eye. Saturn's rings are well-known and were explored in great detail by the Voyager and Cassini missions. Saturn's rings has unmitigated, disc-like, effortlessly conspicuous with even a small telescope, which envelops Saturn. Saturn reached "Opposition" on July 20, 2020 and so it had its best distinguishability.

The specialty of this astronomical happening is that, the planet Saturn becomes more beautiful, also the best time to witness the planet. On that day, the planet was closer to earth. Throughout the night, Saturn shall be discernible and more

resplendent. From Mysuru, Saturn will be perceptible between 19:30 to 06:00 or evening 7:30 pm to morning 6:00 am. It reached the highest point or pinnacle in the sky at around midnight local time. Saturn can be seen in the vicinity of the constellations 'Capricornus' and 'Sagittarius'. Saturn appears cream-white in colour and is among the brightest star-like objects in our sky this winter. Jupiter and Saturn have planned to dominate this year captivatingly! In 1610, an Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei (1564 - 1642) pointed with his telescope to the night sky, discovering the four moons of Jupiter — Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. In the same year, Galileo also discovered a bizarre ovoid encompassing Saturn, which later observations determined to be its gorgeous rings. In 1623, the solar system's two giant planets, Jupiter and Saturn, travelled together across the sky. Jupiter trapped up to and passed Saturn, in an astronomical event known as a "Great Conjunction."

It has been approximately 400 years since the planets, Jupiter and Saturn have passed in closer proximity to each other in the sky, and almost 800 years since the configuration of Saturn and Jupiter eventuated at night, as it will for 2020, allowing nearly everyone around the globe to observe this "Great Conjunction." Astronomers use the term 'conjunction' to designate the rendezvous of planets and other celestial objects on our sky's dome. They use the term great conjunction to define the meeting of Jupiter and Saturn, which are the two biggest planets in our solar system. Though the two planets will seem stunningly close together on the sky's dome now, Jupiter and Saturn will actually be 456 million miles (734,000 km) apart. Saturn is nearly twice as far away as Jupiter. Saturn takes nearly 30 years to go around the Sun, while Jupiter takes nearly 12 years. Thus, every 20 years, Jupiter catches up to Saturn as viewed from Earth. Find a spot with an unhindered vision of the sky, such as a field or park. Jupiter and Saturn are bright, so they can be conspicuous even from most cities. An hour after sunset, look to the southwestern sky. Jupiter will look like a bright star and be easily detectable. Saturn will be slightly fainter and will appear indistinctly above and to the left of Jupiter until Dec. 21, when Jupiter will surpass it and they will reverse positions in the sky. These planets can be seen with the unaided eye, but if you have binoculars or a small telescope, you may be able to see Jupiter's four large moons orbiting the giant planet. Each night, the 2 planets will appear closer low in the southwest in the hour after sunset.

On Dec. 21, the pair, Jupiter and Saturn, will be only 0.1 degree apart and the planetary conjunction of Jupiter-Saturn cannot be matched again until Mar. 15, 2080.Conjunction of Jupiter-Saturn with minimum separation of 0.2 degrees can be seen only in 2080, 2417 and 2477. This similar type of conjunction with separation of 0.1 degrees will be noticeable on 7531 AD and before 1226 AD, it was visible on 6856 BC. So, do not forget to see to this rare astronomical feast tonight after 7 pm in southwest direction!

—Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna, *Amateur Astronomer*

Cattle die after biting

explosive-laced food balls

at M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

Hanur, Dec. 21 (Somu&KS)- In separate cases, a buffalo and a cow have died after biting explosive-laced food balls at Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary Range in Chamarajanagar.

While a buffalo belonging to Kempamadamma of Vadekahalli village in the taluk died after biting a crude bomb kept inside food balls when it was left for grazing at Yelachikere Forest Area on Oct. 22, a cow belonging to Madaiah of Tokere village died in the same manner on Dec. 9.

As the incident had not come to the notice of the Forest Department and as the villagers had not given any complaints, the two incidents have come to light lately.

Poaching suspected: It is suspected that poachers are keeping crude bombs in food items and poaching wild animals in M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary limits.

As many wild animals such as wild boars, spotted deer and sambar among other such wild animals come to villages in forest borders, poachers, who observe the routes of these animals, place crude bombs among food balls made from chickpea and maize flour resulting in these wild animals biting the explosives and getting killed.

Even a few farmers, to protect their crops from wild boars, are allegedly placing such food balls with crude bombs inside it. While small animals die instantly after biting the food balls, large animals such as sambar, gaurs etc. bite the food balls resulting in their mouths being ripped open due to crude bombs exploding in their mouths and die a painful death after suffering for a few days.

Meanwhile, M.M. Hills Wildlife Division Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) V. Yedukondalu said that explosives being placed inside food items has come to the notice of the Forest Department and added that those having agricultural fields in forest borders were indulging in such acts to protect their crops from wild boars and also a few people were indulging in such heinous acts to poach wild animals.

The DCF further said: "The truth would be known only after an investigation. Our Officers are conducting investigations and in case such acts are being committed, persons involved in the acts will be arrested."

Paediatric HIV kits donated to Asha Kirana Hospital

Dr. Renu Agarwal is seen handing over the testing kits to Asha Kirana Hospital Lab Technician Smita as Dr. S.N. Mothi, Nalini Mothi, K.S. Gururaja, Dr. VHT Swamy and Dr. Srirama look on.

Mysuru, Dec. 21- To commemorate the UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) theme of World AIDS Day 'Global Solidarity & Shared Responsibility,' Dr. Renu Agrawal, former Chief Scientist and Rural Programme Coordinator, has donated four Paediatric HIV kits to measure CD4 cells in children to Asha Kirana Hospital in Mysuru, totally worth Rs. 1 lakh.

This will help early detection of HIV in children to start medication early so that they can have a healthy and fruitful life.

Earlier, she had donated a serum analyser to Asha Kirana Hospital to check HIV in the blood serum.

Police Inspectors take part in cycle rally

Lashkar Police Inspector S.D. Suresh Kumar and Krishnaraja Traffic Inspector H.N. Vinay took part in the cycle rally conducted by City Police as part of Crime Prevention Month on Saturday.

WORD OF THE DAY

Infodemic

Pronunciation: in-foh-dem-ik.
Meaning: Massive amount of widely and rapidly circulating information about a particular crisis or controversial issue, consisting of a confusing combination of fact, falsehood, rumor, and opinion.
Origin: Infodemic, a transparent blend of info(rmation) and (epi)demic, was coined in 2003 by David J. Rothkopf, an American political scientist and journalist. Prof. Rothkopf was referring specifically to the profusion of information, misinformation, rumor, and outright falsehoods during the SARS epidemic of 2003.
Example: Yet if information is the disease, knowledge is also a cure. We should react to infodemics just as we do to diseases. —David J. Rothkopf, "When The Buzz Bites Back," Washington Post, May 11, 2003. Her aim was to assess and stop a global spread—not of the dangerous virus but of hazardous false information. She wanted to halt what her colleagues at the health agency are calling an "infodemic." — Matt Richtel, "W.h.o. Fights A Pandemic Besides Coronavirus: An 'Infodemic,'" New York Times, February 6, 2020

THE ODD WORD

Ichthyopolist

Fish seller.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Greased lightning

Meaning: This phrase is used to describe things that are fast.
Origin: Well, lightning has a reputation for being fast. According to The Measure of Things, a lightning bolt can travel around 217,000 mph (349,000 kph). While that speed is impressive, some people think that lightning travels at the same speed as light, but that isn't true. For comparison, light travels at around 670,000,000 mph (1,078,260,480 kph). Okay, so lightning is fast, but what does grease have to do with that? Well, lubricants like oil and grease are used to make machinery run smoother and faster. So the idea here is that grease is being figuratively applied to lightning in order to make it even faster!
Now let's talk about how old this phrase is. The earliest one could find it in print is in the 1830s. For example, the expression is used in an English newspaper called The Boston, Lincoln, Louth & Spalding Herald, January, 1833: "He spoke as quick as 'greased lightning.' "

QUOTE BOX

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.—**Mother Teresa**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

S D E O B L U
TENNIS

Answer: Mixed Doubles Tennis.

SUDOKU

	3						8	
2				6				9
		5	3	7	9	2		
		2				1		
3	6			2			7	4
		7				8		
		6	7	4	5	3		
8				3				6
	5						2	

Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	3	8	7	6	2	5	1
8	1	2	4	9	5	7	3	6
6	7	5	2	1	3	4	9	8
7	5	4	3	8	2	6	1	9
1	9	8	7	6	4	5	2	3
2	3	6	1	5	9	8	4	7
4	2	7	9	3	8	1	5	5
3	6	1	5	2	7	9	8	4
5	8	9	6	4	1	3	7	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

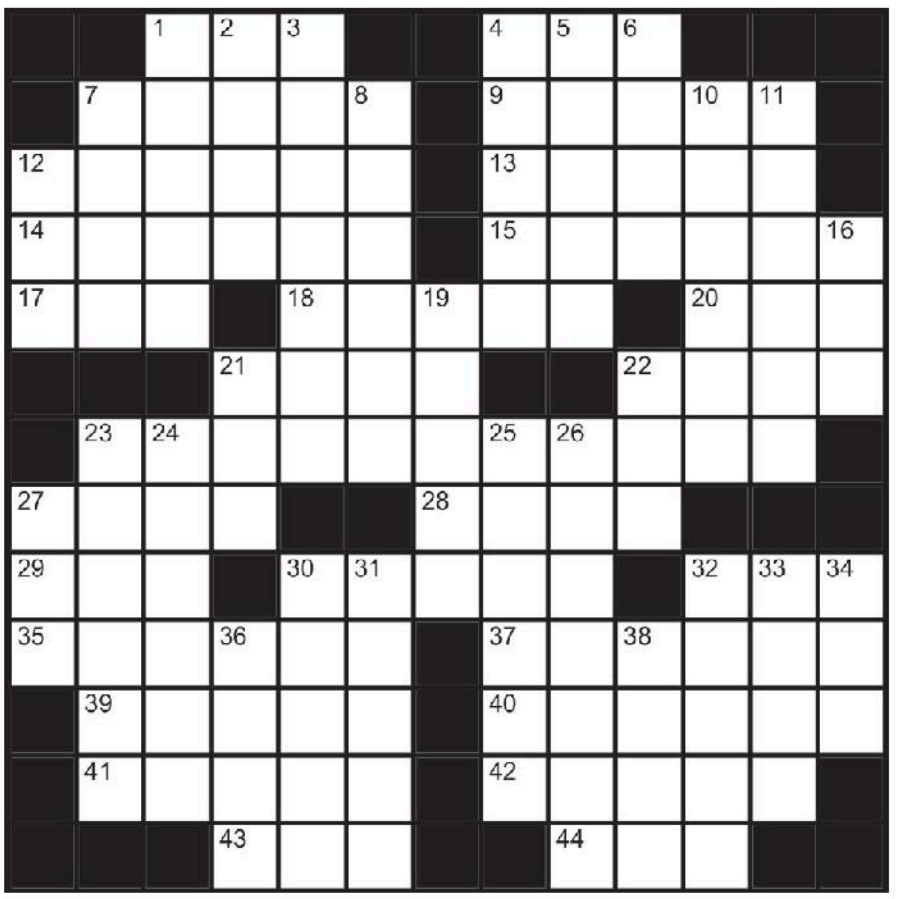
1 Early hrs.
4 A female person or animal
7 One-masted sailboat
9 Insect stage
12 False, prefix
13 T S ____ wrote "The Waste land"?
14 Because of this
15 Indicate or mean
17 First in short
18 Flower also called heart's-ease
20 What we Indians eat almost everyday?
21 Smallest possible amount?
22 Inflamed swelling
23 Musical work
27 Musical instrument
28 Dill - "neat" break-up?
29 Compass heading
30 Oscar ____ : famous Irish writer?
32 Faux ___ : a social blunder?
35 Asian river - "rigs it" anagram
37 Effect, brunt or thrust?
39 Not anybody (2,3)
40 Raged, rampaged or rebelled
41 Come in
42 Advanced Navigation Sys. Inertial Ref.
43 Fruit drink
44 Come together

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

C	S	T	■	B	E	L	A	■	■	L	I	I
R	T	A	■	E	X	E	R	T	■	O	D	D
O	A	K	■	R	O	D	E	O	■	O	L	E
W	Y	A	T	T	■	■	■	G	E	N	I	E
■	■	■	O	H	M	■	T	A	X	■	■	■
E	N	O	W	■	A	M	O	■	E	O	N	S
K	E	W	■	■	C	O	W	■	■	A	E	S
F	I	N	F	■	A	N	I	■	B	R	F	W
■	■	■	M	E	W	■	T	A	B	■	■	■
D	E	L	T	A	■	■	■	S	C	A	R	F
E	R	E	■	T	E	A	M	S	■	R	O	I
A	G	A	■	S	I	G	M	A	■	N	O	N
L	S	D	■	■	A	E	R	Y	■	I	K	E

DOWN

1 Watchful
2 Expression of disdain
3 Sweet aerated drink in the states (4,3)
4 Snow vehicles
5 'Roots' writer
6 The poetical name for 'Ireland'
7 Nav. readings
8 An edible tuber
10 Sorcery from the West Indies?
11 Reach or gain
12 "Hip" anagram for a Greek character ?
16 A tailor's measure
19 Of the nose
21 Little devil
22 Snapped or snipped, stung
23 Doglike
24 State of U.S.A
25 Ex-India P.M. Mrs. ___ Gandhi
26 Abounding
27 ___ up : excited or overwrought
30 ___ and dined : ate in great style, in a way
31 Grenoble river
32 Former President Pratibha ___
33 "Race" round for maple genus?
34 Subscriber Trunk Dialling, in short
36 A list of duties
38 An attitude, either physical or mental



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CUZ IFUY CUZ'BN SNAAWFS UPT YLNF CUZ JAUUV

AU AWN CUZB JLUNPQGNJ QFT YUFTNB YLQA NPJN

CUZ GUZPT TU YLWPN CUZ'BN TUYF ALNBN.

TODAY'S CLUE: S EQUALS G

Saturday's Cryptoquip: It was wonderful to find America, but it would have been more wonderful to miss it - Mark Twain

Hero Indian Super League 2020-21

Mumbai ends Hyderabad's unbeaten run

Kerala Blasters secure point against East Bengal

Aridane Santana (Hyderabad FC) with a header during a Hero ISL 2020-21 match against Mumbai City at Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco yesterday. Picture right: Jeakson Singh (Kerala Blasters FC) heads the ball in the match against East Bengal at Bambolim.

Vasco/ Bambolim, Dec. 21- Mumbai City returned to winning ways in Hero ISL 2020-21 after a 2-0 victory over Hyderabad FC at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco yesterday. Vignesh Dakshinamurthy scored Mumbai's opening goal in the 38th minute and Adam le Fondre added their second before the hour mark.

Ahmed Jahouh had a typically assured outing at the centre of the park for Mumbai. The midfielder's dynamism saw him cover all areas of the pitch and finish with a passing accuracy of 76%. One of Mumbai's most influential players, he had 96 touches of the ball and made two successful interceptions, four successful tackles, four blocks and four clearances.

Hero of the Match: Ahmed Jahouh; **DHL Winning Pass of the Match:** Bipin Singh (Mumbai City FC).

Kerala beat East Bengal: A goal in injury time helped Kerala Blasters FC to a draw against SC East Bengal in Match 35 of Hero ISL 2020-21 at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim yesterday. After an own goal from Bakary Kone that put them ahead, SC East Bengal held on to their lead and almost clinched the victory before Jeakson Singh headed in the equaliser in second half stoppage time.

Anthony Pilkington was a key player for East Bengal and created one chance for his team. The Irish midfielder had two shots on target and was a strong presence defensively as well as he made one successful tackle and one successful interception.

Hero of the Match: Anthony Pilkington (East Bengal); **DHL Winning Pass of the Match:** Sahal Abdul Samad (Kerala Blasters FC).

2021 Women's Tennis Season to start in Abu Dhabi on Jan. 5

Abu Dhabi, Dec. 21- The 2021 WTA season will start in Abu Dhabi on Jan. 5, the governing body of women's tennis said, as it unveiled an early-season calendar that revolves around the Australian Open.

The season will kick off with the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, a WTA 500 level event (Jan. 5-13), while qualifying for the Australian Open will take place in Dubai (Jan.10-13).

Players and their support staff will then travel to Australia where they will complete the mandatory two-week COVID-19 quarantine period.

The Australian Open has already been delayed from its normal January slot and will take place from Feb. 8 to 21. In the build-up to the tournament in Melbourne, two WTA 500 tourneys will be held in Melbourne Park from Jan. 31 to Feb. 7.

WTA Chairman and CEO Steve Simon said on Friday the early-season events "will operate in an environment that puts health and safety at the forefront".

WTA 250 tourneys in Auckland and Shenzhen will not be held in 2021 due to travel restrictions but WTA said it hoped to restore them to calendar in 2022.

EVENTS TODAY (DEC. 21)

- **Gruha Shobhe:** International Living Style Exhibition, special attraction - Ayodhya Ram Mandir, Dasara Exhibition Ground, **up to 9 pm.**
- **JSS Mahavidyapeetha - Sri Shivarathreeshwara Religious Endowment, Mysuru:** Jnana Vaaridhi-3 - Digital Weekly Lecture Series, talk on 'Speciality of Indian Music' by Vidu. Vrinda Acharya, **6 pm.** [YouTube: *http://Youtube.com/c/JSSMahavidyapeethaonline*; Facebook: *https://www.facebook.com/JSSMVP or http://jssonline.org*]

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DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Sayonee (H)	(S-1)	7.30 pm, 9.55 pm
Nanonthara (K)	(S-2)	1.50 pm
Tenet (E)	(S-2)	4.15 pm
	(S-3)	1.30 pm
	(S-4)	6.55 pm, 9.55 pm
Tanikhe (K)	(S-2)	7.20 pm
RH 100 (K)	(S-2)	9.55 pm
Act-1978 (K)	(S-3)	11.00 am, 4.30 pm
		7.15 pm, 9.55 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Indoo Ki Jawani (H)	(S-1)	3.45 pm, 9.30 pm
Tenet (E)	(S-2)	11.30 am, 3.00 pm
		6.30 pm, 9.55 pm
	(S-3)	9.10 pm
Act-1978 (K)	(S-3)	12.15 pm
Nanonthara (K)	(S-1)	6.45 pm
RH 100 (K)	(S-3)	3.20 pm
Kiladigalu (K)	(S-1)	12.45 pm
Tanikhe (K)	(S-3)	6.10 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here. **The other multiplexes and single screen theatres are yet to open.**

Hero Indian Super League

Today's Match (Dec. 21)

ATK MOHUN BAGAN
Vs
BENGALURU FC
Fatorda Stadium
Margao, Goa, **7.30 pm**

Tomorrow's Match (Dec. 22)

OSIDHA
Vs
NORTHEAST UNITED
GMC Stadium,
Bambolim, Goa, **7.30 pm**

Yesterday's Results

HYDERABAD - 0
Lose to
MUMBAI CITY - 2

KERALA BLASTERS - 1
Drew with
EAST BENGAL - 1

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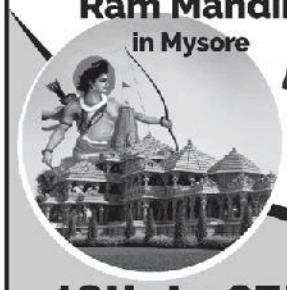

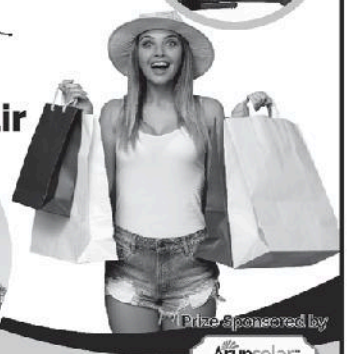

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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.